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ABSTRACT

Connotations for the word "environment" have increased to include a wide range of meanings. It has become a political force with candidates of most major parties being very conscious of what is referred to as the "environment vote." In the classroom and society, "environment" is a controversial issue. For example, at one time, the rainforests and old colonial buildings could be taught about just for the pleasure and wonder it would bring Australian students. Today teachers have to be conscious that the Australian community is divided over how rainforests are to be used and that old colonial buildings often stand in the way of developmental progress of cities. Environmental education must accommodate these changes in the public perception of environment and its new place of importance in Australian society. This bulletin contains information to assist in teaching about, in, and for the Australian environment by: (1) outlining a rationale for Australian studies; (2) detailing the range of learning that might be considered essential for all students; (3) suggesting guidelines for handling some of the more problematic aspects of education; and (4) providing case studies of the work undertaken by students and teachers around Australia. (RT)

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